

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting on August 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pam Knox at 6:35 pm.

- I. ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Pam Knox, Russ Barrett, Ruth Ruttenberg, Don Wallace, and Laura Hill-Eubanks. Also attending were Laura Ranker (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission - CVRPC), and Jane Pekol.
- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:**
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled):**
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** July 8, 2015 minutes approved 5-0-0
- V. DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Town Forest Plan:** NCC has been awarded a grant of \$5000 to conduct a natural resources inventory in the Municipal Forest. Requests for Proposals have been sent to consultants that might be interested and qualified. NCC has received several letters of interest. Ruth, Russ and Laura will review on Sept 5.
 - b. **Northfield Urban Community Forest Program:** Laura Ranker from CVRPC is assisting NCC with the draft Urban Forest Management Plan as part of the grant received from VT UCF. A first draft was distributed and discussed. Tentatively decided to focus on the Plan and leave the Ordinance for later. The Municipal Forest stewardship planning will be a separate process. NCC should look over the Urban Forest planning draft and send comments to Laura R. and Russ by next week. They will work on the next draft. NCC should work on who is responsible for which tasks, how the budget will be structured, who will have oversight, and what the schedules for maintenance and other actions will be. Also how to get public input and help in identifying important/historic trees and those to be conserved. Other possible issues to be included are riparian buffers and invasives. The Dog River LANDS report will be sent to Laura R. to pull out items that belong in the Urban Forest Plan. A draft will be sent to Rose Beatty and Elise Schadler. Hoping to get the final draft to the Select Board for approval in Oct/Nov.
 - c. **Wellfield Site Plan Maintenance:** Christine is working on this and is contacting the interested parties.
 - d. **Economic Brownfields Growth group:** Don attended a joint meeting of the Brownfields committee and the Economic Development Committee. He updated the NCC on its progress.

- e. **Conservation speaker for Library program:** NCC will be in contact with the coordinator of the children's program. We could possibly give presentations on conservation.
- f. **Other:** Russ informed the group that there is a Tree Stewards meeting on Oct 10. He does not have all the details yet.

Videographers will be in Northfield to do a segment on the Municipal Forest as part of Forest & Parks program.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): Jane Pekol attended and expressed interest in working on energy projects in Northfield. NCC explained its history of work on energy projects and welcomed the idea of more work being done in that area. Laura will follow up with Jane.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Conservation Commission.

These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.